Minutes of the

Meeting of the Executive Commitee

of the

World Council of Churches

16-19 May 2006

Meeting held at the

Ecumenical Institute Bossey, Switzerland

These minutes have no official status until received, amended as necessary and approved by the Executive Committee at its next meeting. The official proceedings of the Executive Committee consist of a documented record of decisions taken by the Committee along with the texts of documents acted upon. The introductions to agenda items and summaries of presentations and discussions are prepared by the minute-taker for background information only, and should not be cited as part of the official proceedings of the meeting nor as such attributed to the speakers' names.

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1. OPENING ACTIONS

1.1 Worship

Opening worship took place in the Chapel of the Ecumenical Institute Bossey. The readings were Luke 24: 46-49 and Acts 1:8. The preacher was Rev. Dr Walter Altmann, Moderator of the Central Committee and he took as his text Acts 1:8.

On subsequent mornings, worship also took place in the Chapel:

17 May	Readings John 14: 25-27 and Acts 9:31 Rev. Dr Margaretha Hendriks-Ririmasse preached on the text from Acts.
18 May	Readings: Jeremiah 9: 23-25 and Mark 9: 33-37 Ms Carmen Lansdowne preached on the text from Jeremiah.
19 May	Readings: Philippians 3: 12-16 and John 15: 1-8 Metropolitan Gennadios of Sassima preached on the text from Philippians.

1.2 Call to order and welcome

The Executive Committee met in **decision session.**

Dr Altmann, presiding, welcomed members and called the meeting to order at 9.05am. He invited the General Secretary to call the roll.

1.3 Roll call and seating of substitutes

The General Secretary welcomed members to Bossey and called the roll. Apologies had been received from Dr Agnes Abuom, Metropolitan Bishoy and Pastor Malungo.

Bishop Youannes was appointed as a substitute for Metropolitan Bishoy, and, for later in the meeting, Fr Mikhail Gundiaev for Bishop Hilarion, who was having to leave early.

The Moderator declared that a quorum was present and that the meeting was duly constituted.

Adoption of agenda and timetable

The General Secretary presented a proposed agenda and timetable, which the committee **adopted by unanimous consensus.**

Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting held in Porto Alegre on 13 February 2006 had been previously circulated. One amendment was notified. Page 19, line 4 should read:
… Rule XX 'Conduct of Meetings' in February 2005…
i.e. the title of Rule XX is simply 'Conduct of Meetings'.

With this one amendment, the minutes were **approved**.

Bishop Koppe asked for clarification of the words 'sacred recognition' (Minutes p. 16) in relation to the Church of Sweden's recognition of same-sex unions.

Metropolitan Gennadios, while accepting the accuracy of the minute, stated that the words were not his, but he had been quoting what he understood to be the self-explanation of the Church of Sweden.

Ms Aasa-Marklund, at the invitation of the Moderator, gladly gave an explanation. She stated that the Synod of the Church of Sweden had, after a long reflective process, decided in October 2005 to make provision for same-sex couples who had already entered into a civil law partnership to pray together in an official ceremony. It was not a marriage but it was a blessing of a same-sex partnership. There had been negative reactions to this step, not only from the Russian Orthodox Church, but also from other churches.

Bishop Alfeyev, at a later point in the meeting, explained the position of the Russian Orthodox Church. He saw a growing divide between churches upholding traditional teaching and churches adopting a liberal position. This had resulted in growing pressure within the Moscow Patriarchate to consider withdrawal from WCC membership. During the previous week, there had been a meeting of the All-Diaspora Council of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia, which had acknowledged the need for reconciliation with the Moscow Patriarchate. The All-Diaspora Council's resolution had included a request to the Moscow Patriarchate to review its membership in the World Council of Churches.

Dean Gadegaard expressed his thanks for the explanations, and was glad that the opportunity had been given to share these different viewpoints openly.

Bishop Koppe expressed the hope that, because we pray together, we shall stay together.

The Moderator expressed thanks to Metropolitan Gennadios, Ms Aasa-Marklund and Bishop Hilarion for the explanations given.

Appointment of Sub-Committees

The General Secretary presented a proposed list of members of sub-committees. The name of Ms Hae Sun Jung was added to the Public Issues Sub-Committee. In the absence of Dr Agnes Abuom, who had been proposed as moderator of the Public Issues Sub-Committee, that sub-committee would appoint its own moderator.

The Executive Committee **adopted by unanimous consensus** the proposed list with this one addition (Appendix II).

Introduction of members

The Executive Committee **moved from decision session to hearing session.**

At the invitation of the Moderator, those present introduced themselves and shared their expectations for the present meeting.

Consensus decision-making

The Moderator welcomed Rev. Professor James Haire, who was present as consultant on consensus-decision making, and invited him to address the meeting.

Professor Haire, speaking out of his experience in the Uniting Church in Australia, gave a PowerPoint presentation on decision-making by consensus.

While there would be no general sessions in the course of the present meeting, there would be both hearing sessions and decision sessions. He drew the distinction between 'consensus by unanimity', in which all accepted the decision, and 'consensus by agreement', in which some agreed to accept a majority position that was not their own.

A copy of Professor Haire's presentation was distributed to the participants.

The Moderator thanked Professor Haire for being present, assisting with the decision sessions and for his presentation.

1. REPORT OF THE GENERAL SECRETARY

The Executive Committee met **in hearing session.**

The Moderator invited the General Secretary to give his report.

The General Secretary gave a spoken report. His reports normally covered four areas: programme, staffing, his travel and presence at major ecumenical events, and strengthening ecumenical relationships. As regards programme and staffing, they would be dealt with elsewhere in the present meeting. He

had undertaken no major travel in the two months since the Assembly, and so in this report would confine himself to the strengthening of relationships.

Proposed Ecumenical Alliance for Development (PEAD)

For the benefit of new members of the committee he outlined the background to the establishment of PEAD (Minutes, September 2005, pp. 9-10, and 89-90; and February 2006, pp. 4-5). The most recent development had been that the ACT Emergency Committee had now met and approved the following structure. There would be an umbrella organization, the ACT Alliance, comprising three areas: ACT International, which would continue the present work of ACT; ACT Development, which would take forward the present work of PEAD; and, possibly, ACT Advocacy, which would continue the present work of the Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance (EAA). All three areas would be coordinated under the brand name 'ACT Alliance'.

As regards ACT Development, it had been agreed that for two to five years the WCC would provide its institutional base with a secretariat in the Ecumenical Centre. Applications for membership of ACT Development had been invited from agencies with a deadline of 1 November 2006. The post of Director of ACT Development would be advertised in June, for shortlisting and appointment in November. It was hoped that the newly appointed director would begin work in January 2007.

Relationships with Christian World Communions (CWCs)

There had been follow-up to the Assembly Policy Reference Committee's recommendation that 'the WCC initiate, within the next year and in consultation with the Christian World Communions, a joint consultative commission to discuss and recommend ways to further strengthen the participation of Christian World Communions in the WCC'. The Steering Group of the Conference of the General Secretaries of CWC had recently met in Geneva and had discussed their relationship with the WCC and, more particularly, their involvement in the reconfiguration process. The possible establishment and terms of reference of a joint consultative commission

WCC/CWCs would be discussed by the CWCs' general secretaries at their meeting in Rome in October 2006. The three Geneva-based bodies (WCC, Lutheran World Federation and World Alliance of Reformed Churches) were exploring the possibility of combined assemblies. However, if the WCC Assembly were broadened, it would need to include other CWCs beyond those that were Geneva-based, e.g. the Anglican Consultative Council.

Relationships with Regional Ecumenical Organizations (REOs)

Here there had been some follow-up to the Assembly Policy Reference Committee's recommendation to 'improve the process of consultation, particularly in areas in which work and programmes might overlap and where statements or efforts of the WCC might have particularly sensitive local ramifications (...) so that each instrument of the ecumenical movement is undertaking the programmes and tasks most effectively suited to their strengths'. He had already met with the Venerable Colin Williams, General Secretary of the Conference of European Churches, and discussed CEC's involvement in the reconfiguration process. The CEC Central Committee was meeting the following week and would be given a presentation by the WCC on ecumenism in the 21st century. CEC were also preparing their response to the Assembly-approved document 'Called to be the one church'.

The All Africa Conference of Churches had also taken up the debate on the reconfiguration process. The other REOs were encouraged to increase their participation in the process as well.

The Moderator thanked the General Secretary for his report and invited comments and questions.

Dean Gadegaard congratulated the General Secretary on the progress made in establishing ACT Development and enquired what the prospects were for EAA becoming ACT Advocacy.

The General Secretary replied that the long-term objective was to have the three bodies (ACT International, ACT Development, and EAA, as it still was) under the ACT Alliance. ACT International was already well established as a

joint WCC/LWF agency. He had already described the process towards establishing ACT Development. However, the EAA was a different type of body, having among it members agencies not directly related to the WCC. The EAA saw its role as campaigning. His hope was that in the end EAA would decide to become ACT Advocacy.

The Moderator thanked the General Secretary for his response.

3. EVALUATION OF THE NINTH ASSEMBLY

The Executive Committee met **in hearing session.**

Metropolitan Gennadios, presiding, invited Mr Douglas Chial, Geneva-based Assembly Coordinator, to report on the Assembly evaluation process.

Mr Chial first gave details of the reporting process following the Assembly. Assembly committee reports had been published on the Assembly website. The plenary minutes would be available to the Central Committee for its next meeting, and the official report would be published in book form in November.

The reporting process was to be distinguished from the evaluation process, which he then proceeded to describe.

The present evaluation was a preliminary evaluation, and he requested the committee to consider it, its key findings, and the concluding questions, in an effort to deepen and refine the final evaluation for consideration by the Central Committee.

He then presented and commented on a document 'Preliminary Assembly Evaluation', which gave details of preliminary reports, new elements in this Assembly, major expectations surrounding it, and some key findings, concluding with questions for discussion.

Metropolitan Gennadios invited comments.

Many comments were made and noted by Mr Chial. They included:

- There will be a financial statement appended to the final evaluation.
- Because participants were not resident on the Assembly site, committee members had had little time for interaction since they were busy during lunch breaks.
- The thematic plenaries as planned left no time for responses from delegates, leaving them frustrated.
- It did not necessarily follow that a more affordable assembly would be a less representative assembly because 45% of member churches sent only one delegate.
- Mechanisms could be introduced to ensure greater representativeness.
- Decision-making by consensus went unexpectedly well and was a great achievement, but further training of moderators in consensus decision-making was essential.
- Could the importance of the assembly taking place in a predominantly Roman Catholic and Pentecostal environment be highlighted?
- One member expressed shock at there not being a shared eucharist for all participants.
- It was, however, pointed out that this was a problem for the churches, and not for the WCC itself.

Mr Chial, responding, undertook to feed the above and the other comments made into the evaluation process.

Metropolitan Gennadios thanked Mr Chial for his presentation.

4. PUBLIC ISSUES

4.1 Public Issues policy, past actions and proposed statements

The Executive Committee met **in hearing session.**

The Moderator invited Mr Peter Weiderud, Director of the Churches' Commission on International Affairs, to speak on Public Issues.

Mr Weiderud presented a paper describing the Public Issues role of the WCC. The newly elected Executive and Central Committees had the responsibility to maintain this role and in fulfilling the role would have the support of CCIA as an expert advisory group. He further presented a paper describing actions taken on Public Issues since the Assembly.

He then presented four draft statements, to be considered by the Public Issues Sub-Committee, on: Iran and Nuclear Non-Proliferation; on the Human Rights Council; on the Conflict in Israel/Palestine; and on Sudan. The draft statements had been prepared by the staff, since the new CCIA had yet to be appointed. He concluded by stating that this would be the last Executive Committee meeting at which he would be present as Director, as he would shortly be returning to Sweden. He was proud to have been thus associated with the WCC.

Discussion

The Moderator invited discussion on the proposed statements.

Bishop Alfeyev asked if we could not make a clear statement that the WCC was against an attack on Iran.

Ms Lansdowne expressed concern at the absence of the USA on the Human Rights Council.

Ms Oyekola felt that something should be said about the situation in northern Uganda.

Bishop Koppe, on the issue of human rights, referring to a paper recently given by Metropolitan Kirill to the Tenth World Russian People's Council, enquired what the position of the Russian Orthodox Church was on human rights.

Bishop Alfeyev explained that a debate on human rights had been going on for some years in Russia and in the Russian Orthodox Church. The World Russian People's Council, which brought Russians worldwide together, was not a church body, although many church people were involved as individuals.

He continued by saying that Metropolitan Kirill had addressed the World Russian People's Council on Human Rights and Moral Responsibility and that Council had issued a Declaration on Human Rights and Dignity. The Declaration stated that 'rights and liberties are inseparable from human obligations and responsibilities', and that 'it is unacceptable, in pursuit of human rights, to oppress faith and moral tradition, insult religious and national feelings, cause harm to revered holy objects and sites…' The moral responsibility of individuals and the rights of religious communities were also important issues.

Mr Weiderud responded to the points made.

He pointed out that the right to religious freedom was mentioned in the proposed Statement on the Human Rights Council.

Northern Uganda had been a concern of the Assembly. Immediate follow-up had taken the form of a letter from the General Secretary to the churches in Uganda. More work was needed to develop the WCC's position on the situation, and it was hoped that a draft statement could be presented to the next Central Committee meeting for consideration.

On Iran and Nuclear Non-Proliferation, he stressed the established WCC position that the only ultimate protection was elimination, prohibition and verification.

The General Secretary added that a further follow-up to the Assembly's concern on the situation in northern Uganda would be a team visit, whose findings would be incorporated into the proposed statement for the Central Committee's consideration.

He further reminded members that they could suggest their own concerns for action to the Public Issues Sub-Committee until lunch time the following day.

4.2 Report of the Public Issues Sub-Committee

The Executive Committee met **in decision session.**

The Moderator invited Archbishop Nifon, assisted by Mr Weiderud, to present the Report of the Public Issues Sub-Committee.

Archbishop Nifon requested Mr Weiderud to report on actions on proposals made by members of the Executive Committee.

Mr Weiderud stated that two requests for action had been received. They had been considered by the Sub-Committee, and the following actions were proposed.

Haiti, requested by Ms Celestine. The Sub-Committee felt that there was no need for new or additional action at this point. The Executive Committee had issued a Statement on Haiti at its September 2005 meeting (Minutes, pp. 70-74) and Haiti had also featured largely in the Assembly's Statement on Latin America. Follow-up would be at programmatic level, in coordination with the Caribbean Council of Churches.

São Paulo, requested by the Moderator, in view of the current prison riots and the police reaction. The Sub-Committee considered that the most appropriate response would be to send an urgent letter, at present being drafted, to the member churches in Brazil. The letter would mention the shock of the WCC on learning of the violent situation, acknowledge the witness of the Brazilian churches, and offer condolences to victims' families and loved ones.

Discussion

Points made during the ensuing discussion included:

- The letter would be signed by the Moderator and the General Secretary.
- Reference should be made to the failings on the part of the authorities.
- The letter, while being addressed to the Brazilian member churches, would also be made available to the media.

The Executive Committee **accepted** the above proposals for action **by unanimous consensus.**

Archbishop Nifon further requested Mr Weiderud to present the proposed Statements to the Executive Committee.

4.2.1 Statement on Iran and Nuclear No-Proliferation

Metropolitan Gennadios questioned the original formulation of (c) in the Statement concerning the 1995 pledge by the USA, confirmed by the Security Council Resolution 984 'never to use or threaten to use nuclear weapons against any non nuclear weapon state signatory to the NPT, except when such a state is attacking the United States in cooperation with a nuclear weapon state.' Such a formulation seemed to imply that such use or threatened use of nuclear weapons was acceptable to the WCC.

Mr Weiderud explained that that was the content of the pledge, and that, while the WCC policy is against any use or threatened use of nuclear weapons, this appeal was to the USA to abide by its own declared pledge.

Ms Lansdowne proposed a varied wording to the last clause: '... except according to the explicit terms of that resolution'.

The Executive Committee **accepted the varied wording by unanimous consensus.**

The Executive Committee then **accepted by unanimous consensus** the following

STATEMENT ON IRAN AND NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION

The World Council of Churches has on many occasions declared its enduring view that "the only ultimate protection against nuclear weapons is their total elimination" (EC, Feb 2004), prohibition and a mechanism of effective international inspections and control (2nd Assembly 1954). The Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty is the only agreement in international law that formally requires these goals, and the WCC therefore regards it a matter of fundamental importance that all states be meticulous and unwavering in meeting their full obligations under the Treaty.

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) is specially mandated to monitor and confirm the adherence of non-nuclear weapons' states (NNWS) signatories to the Treaty. It is the responsibility of the IAEA to confirm that any and all nuclear programs of NNWS are transparent and verifiably restricted to the peaceful purposes permitted under the NPT, and thus it is also a matter of fundamental importance that all NNWS Treaty signatories enter into and fully comply with NPT Safeguards Agreements with the IAEA, and that they ratify and implement the Additional Protocol to Safeguard Agreements with the IAEA.

The WCC therefore reiterates its grave concern that the authority and effectiveness of the NPT have been eroded by the failure of its members to reach any agreement at the 2005 NPT Review Conference on advancing nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament efforts and by the further failure of the international community to address the urgent nuclear disarmament imperative through the final document of the 2005 World Summit.

The WCC is also deeply concerned that the authority and effectiveness of the IAEA, as well as the objective of nuclear disarmament, are severely damaged by the failure of Iran to fully and unambiguously cooperate with the IAEA in verifying all elements of Iran's nuclear programs as being solely for peaceful purposes. Iran's history of clandestine nuclear research, its failure to provide the IAEA full and ongoing access to all nuclear facilities, and its failure to satisfactorily clarify all of the outstanding issues and questions raised by the

IAEA during the course of its inspections is a violation of its obligations and undermines pursuit of the agreed global goal of total nuclear disarmament.

It adds to the concern of the international community, that this record of non-compliance has sometimes been accompanied by hateful and irresponsible statements by the Iranian leadership against the Jewish people and the state of Israel.

Just as we call on Iran to take special steps to assure the international community that it is not pursuing clandestine nuclear programs, we also call on the United States to take steps to assure all non-nuclear weapon states that it will honour its 1995 commitment. The "negative security assurance," which was given by all five of the officially recognized nuclear weapon states, was key to facilitating the 1995 decision for the permanent extension of the Treaty. We regret that President Bush placed the United States in direct violation of that commitment when he pointedly refused to take the option of a nuclear strike against Iran off the table in the wake of reports by the New York Times on US planning for such an attack.

It is important for Iran to understand that its obligations are not conditional on the actions of others. There is no justification for Iran's violations of its IAEA obligations and the WCC calls on Iran and the international community to meet their collective obligations to pursue a peaceful and nuclear free world by redoubling their efforts to negotiate a constructive resolution of Iran's treaty obligations.

Such a resolution should include the recognition of Iran's legitimate security needs and should respect its formal right, under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, to use nuclear technology and material for peaceful purposes. A successful resolution of the crisis must also respect the legitimate security needs of the international community by ensuring strict adherence to nuclear non-proliferation principles and practices as embodied in the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, in the agreements and decisions reached at NPT review conferences, and in related IAEA measures and obligations. There is no

military solution to this controversy. It should be handled through diplomatic means in particular by increased support to the IAEA.

Although Iran has the right to develop nuclear power for civilian peaceful purposes, including the right to enrich uranium, it is not an unconditional right. The right of access to nuclear technology rests on the obligation to disclose all of its nuclear facilities and programs to the IAEA, and to open all nuclear facilities and programs to ongoing IAEA inspection. While we understand that Iran is currently cooperating with the IAEA, and while the IAEA confirms it has not uncovered any current direct evidence that Iran is actively pursuing the acquisition of nuclear weapons, Iran has for now lost the confidence of many in the international community because of its recent history of clandestine nuclear research. As a result, Iran must accept that it will have to fulfil certain extraordinary requirements in order to earn back the international trust.

In the immediate term, the restoration of such trust requires a verifiable moratorium on all Iranian uranium enrichment and reprocessing efforts until the IAEA has established to its satisfaction that all Iranian nuclear facilities are fully declared and that current and future nuclear facilities will operate in accordance with IAEA inspection standards. This is a confidence-building measure that does not deny in principle Iran's right to develop nuclear technology for peaceful purposes.

Ongoing confidence that Iran's nuclear programs are exclusively for the peaceful purposes allowed by the Treaty requires further that Iran ratify and fully implement the IAEA Additional Protocol.

In recognition of Iran's right to nuclear technology and material for peaceful purposes, the international community should agree to establish a means to assure that Iran has reliable access to fuel for its power-generating nuclear reactors. We further urge the international community to move toward ongoing and permanent international control of the nuclear fuel cycle along the general lines proposed by the IAEA Director-General – notably, an IAEA-controlled fuel bank that would provide fuel to civilian reactors unless ordered

not to do so by the Security Council.

In addition, a resolution of the current Iranian nuclear controversy should include commitments and mechanisms to begin to address broader security concerns, including attention to Iran's security needs, steps aimed at normalizing its relations with the United States and other states, in particular its neighbours, practical steps towards pursuing the internationally agreed objective of making the Middle East a nuclear-weapons-free zone, Iran's acceptance and recognition of the state of Israel within the borders of 1967, and Iran's support for efforts by the international community to put an end to violence against unarmed and innocent civilians for political or religious aims.

In calling on Iran to respect the integrity of all states and to return to full compliance with its IAEA obligations the WCC is mindful that other states are also in serious violation of their non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament obligations. The five nuclear weapons state (NWS) signatories to the NPT have not implemented the 13 practical disarmament steps agreed to at the 2000 NPT review conference, especially their "unequivocal undertaking…to accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals leading to nuclear disarmament to which all States parties are committed under Article VI." India, Israel and Pakistan have remained outside the Treaty and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea has withdrawn.

The Executive Committee of the World Council of Churches, meeting in Bossey, Switzerland, 16-19 May 2006:

a) ***Urges*** the Government of Iran to fully comply and cooperate with IAEA and Security Council directives and requests.
b) ***Welcomes*** Iran's consistent disavowal of any intention to weaponize its nuclear capacity and we call on it to take all the steps and measures necessary to assure the international community of Iran's verifiable compliance with that pledge.
c) ***Appeals*** to the United States to reconfirm its full adherence to its 1995 pledge, confirmed by Security Council Resolution 984, never to use or threaten to use nuclear weapons against any non-nuclear weapon state

signatory to the NPT, according to the explicit terms of that pledge.

d) ***Request*** the international community, and in particular the members of the UN Security Council, to solve the controversy around Iran's nuclear program through multilateral diplomatic means, including by strengthening the IAEA capacity for inspections.

e) ***Reiterates*** our call on the five nuclear weapons state (NWS) signatories to the NPT to accelerate their efforts toward verifiable and irreversible reductions and ultimate elimination of their nuclear arsenals as required under Article VI of the Treaty, to refrain from all research and experimentation related to the development of new nuclear weapons.

f) ***Calls*** on the three states still outside the NPT, India, Israel, and Pakistan, to heed the repeated calls of the international community that each join the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) as a non-nuclear weapon state, as the 2005 resolution of the UN General Assembly emphasized (A/C.1/60/L.4), "promptly and without condition." We further call on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to rejoin the Treaty as a verifiable non-nuclear weapons state.

4.2.2 Statement on the Human Rights Council

Mr Weiderud then presented the proposed Statement on the Human Rights Council. There had been no changes to the original draft as presented to the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee then **accepted by consensus** the following

STATEMENT ON HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

1. The United Nations Commission on Human Rights (UNCHR) held its final session in Geneva on 27th March 2006. It was an ignominious end to a body that was established in 1946 at the first meeting of ECOSOC, as one of the first two "functional Commissions". For over 60 years UNCHR played a unique role in developing universally accepted standards for promotion and defence of human rights. It was the highest global body responsible to oversee respect for human

rights by national governments. One of its major tasks was to monitor violations around the world and act on them during its six-week annual session in Geneva.

2. The work of UNCHR peaked through the 1970s to 1990s. Amongst other achievements it established 30 special procedures and mechanisms that addressed specific country situations and thematic issues. The WCC through its Commission of Churches on International Affairs worked closely with the UNCHR particularly during the 1970s and 80s on issues of militarisation and national security in Latin America and its impact on human rights. The Council was amongst the first organisation to bring victims of human rights violations, human right defenders and church representatives from the regions to give live testimony before the UNCHR. Much of this work contributed to the setting up of safeguards against torture, disappearances, violence against women, arbitrary and extra-judicial killings.

3. Despite structural flaws, and problems of funding the UNCHR continued to work effectively for promotion and defence of human rights. The work of UNCHR in recent years however, was virtually paralysed by practices and policies of double standards and politicisation of human rights agenda by member states, including en-bloc voting by the regions.

4. Given the dissatisfaction at the functioning of the UNCHR a number of states called for reforms. It was not surprising that the Secretary General set up a High Level Panel whose task was to propose overall reforms of the United Nations including the UNCHR. The World Council of Churches strongly supported this call of the Secretary General. The Statement on UN Reform issued at the 9th General Assembly, 14-23 February 2006 Porto Alegre, Brazil, also focused on the reform of the Human Rights agenda in the following terms:

*"h) **Stresses** that reform of the UN human rights architecture must result in an improvement of the capacity of the UN to engage with and make a practical positive difference in the lives of victims of injustice, discrimination and oppression around the world. The system of Special Procedures developed by the Commission on Human Rights, of the UN Human Rights Treaty Bodies as well as of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and her office should be actively supported, and their independence respected and their capacity substantially enhanced.*

*i) **Urges** member states to avoid politicising the composition of the new Human Rights Council and give it a status within the UN architecture that reflects the central importance of human rights as one of the three pillars of the UN system. Members of the UN Human Rights Council must demonstrate through their policies, actions and domestic and international human rights record a genuine commitment to the promotion and protection of human rights, including the economic, social and cultural rights. Being a UN member state or even a permanent member of the UN Security Council does not by itself meet this criterion."*

5. On 15th March 2006 the General Assembly of the United Nations adopted a resolution that created a new Human Rights Council. The resolution was adopted after some hard negotiations. It was welcomed by most member states, churches and human rights NGOs who while acknowledging its shortcomings considered it the best under the present circumstances. The elections for the new Human Rights Council took place on the 9th May, when the General Assembly elected 47 countries of 63 that were contesting for membership. The inaugural session of the Human Rights Council is scheduled to take place in Geneva on 19th June 2006.

6. The General Assembly Resolution acknowledged that peace and security, development and human rights are not only interlinked and mutually reinforcing but also are the pillars of the United Nations system and the foundations for collective security and wellbeing. The Resolution recognised the work undertaken by the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, over the years, and expressed the need to preserve and build on its achievements and to redress its shortcomings.

The Executive Committee of the World Council of Churches, meeting in Bossey, Switzerland, 16-19 May 2006:

a) *Recognises* the contribution made by the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, over a period of sixty years, for promotion and defence of human rights and expresses the need to preserve and build on its achievements by avoiding policies and practices of double standards, en-bloc voting and politicisation of the human rights agenda that were so prevalent at the UNCHR and were instrumental for bringing it into disrepute;
b) *Encourages* member states of the United Nations to recognise and accept the importance of the universality of human rights and to work for it in a spirit of cooperation across regional lines for the wellbeing of all the people around the world; and also recognise the increasing interaction between religion and politics in order to address tensions between the right to religious freedom and other fundamental rights;
c) *Reiterates* the need for the Human Rights Council to recognise the achievements and importance of the special mechanism of the UNCHR and to strengthen and build their capacities;
d) *Emphasises strongly* for the need to recognise the role and contribution of churches and civil society organisations in the promotion and defence of human rights and ensure them unhindered access to effectively participate in the debates and discourses at the forthcoming sessions of the Human Rights Council;
e) *Urges* member churches to continue to encourage and support the efforts of the United Nations in strengthening the links between peace and

security, development and human rights and in this connection continue to work closely with the Human Rights Council for the promotion and defence of human rights, including monitoring and compliance by the states of internationally accepted human rights norms and standards;

f) *Calls* on member churches and ecumenical partners in context where religion interacts with politics in a way that causes polarisation and division with societies to deepen dialogue with people of other faiths, seek common approaches and develop common codes of conduct for promotion and defence of human rights of all people;

g) *Calls also* on all member states to provide full moral, material and human resources backing and support to ensure the successful functioning of the Human Rights Council.

4.2.3 Statement on the Conflict in Israel/Palestine

Mr Weiderud then presented the proposed Statement on the Conflict in Israel/Palestine. There had been some additions to the original draft as presented to the Executive Committee.

Discussion

Metropolitan Gennadios considered that the final paragraph of the Statement, in the form of a request addressed to the Commission of the Churches on International Affairs and related church organizations, was inappropriate. Such requests were usually addressed to external bodies and not to ourselves.

In subsequent discussion, it was stated that such action would be taken in any case, but that including such a request in the Statement would be an indication of the concern of the Executive Committee. However, the request could simply be recorded separately in the minutes and deleted from the body of the Statement.

The Moderator asked for an indication from the Executive Committee if they were in favour of deleting the final paragraph of the proposed Statement and including its contents simply in the minutes.

The Executive Committee **accepted by agreed consensus** that it was in favour of the deletion.

Bishop Koppe requested, as a member of the Sub-Committee, that his dissent from that consensus decision be recorded, regarding to delete the final paragraph.

The Executive Committee then **accepted by agreed consensus** the following

STATEMENT ON THE CONFLICT IN ISRAEL/PALESTINE:
THE TIME IS RIPE TO DO WHAT IS RIGHT

With the responsible powers and authorities providing little prospect of a viable future for both Israelis and Palestinians, with concern rising around the world at the recent course of events in the conflict, and with various peace plans and numerous UN resolutions languishing unimplemented, *the World Council of Churches Executive Committee, meeting in Geneva, 16-19 May, 2006,* comes to a sober conclusion: Peace must come soon or it may not come to either people for a long time.

Failure to comply with international law and consequences thereof has pushed the situation on the ground up to a point of no return. The disparities are appalling. One side is positioning itself to unilaterally establish final borders on territory that belongs to the other side; the other side is increasingly confined to the scattered enclaves that remain. On one side there is control of more and more land and water; on the other there are more and more families deprived of land and livelihoods. On one side as many people as possible are being housed on occupied land; on the other side the toll mounts of refugees without homes or land. One side controls Jerusalem, a city shared by two peoples and three world religions; the other—Muslim and Christian—watches its demographic, commercial and religious presence wither in Jerusalem.

From both sides, military forces or armed groups strike across the 1967 borders and kill innocent civilians. On both sides, authorities countenance such attacks.

Finally, the side set to keep its unlawful gains is garnering support from part of the international community. The side that, despairing at those unlawful gains, used legitimate elections to choose new leaders is being isolated and punished.

All parties to the conflict and the foreign powers implicated in it now face a world dangerously divided over this conflict, a world increasingly convinced that the goal of peace for all has been traded away for gains by one side.

At this critical juncture the contribution of churches can be to speak from the perspective of ethics. The actions noted above and others like them cannot be justified morally, legally or even politically.

Late in the long civil rights struggle in the U.S., Dr. Martin Luther King wrote:

> "[T]ime…can be used destructively or constructively. More and more I feel that the people of ill will have used time much more effectively than have the people of good will. We will have to repent in this generation not merely for the hateful words and actions of the bad people, but for the appalling silence of the good people. … We must use time creatively, in the knowledge that the time is always ripe to do right." ['Letter from Birmingham Jail' 1965]

The same hard diagnosis applies to the struggle for a just and durable peace between Israelis and Palestinians. Impunity toward international law, the United Nations Charter, resolutions of the UN Security Council and rulings of the International Court of Justice has long characterized actions on the ground. Now the same phenomenon is apparent in international policies toward the conflict as well. Legal norms that bear so heavily on this conflict—territorial

integrity, the peaceful resolution of conflict, the right to self-determination and the right to self-defence, among others—are being more widely ignored.

Calls for the application of these norms anchor six decades of church policy toward the conflict, including WCC Statements on 'The Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territories and Israel's Annexation of Palestinian Territory' (2004), 'The Ecumenical Response to the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict' (2002 and 2001), 'Jerusalem Final Status Negotiations' (2000), 'The Status of Jerusalem' (1998), 'The Middle East' (1993, 1983, 1974, 1969, 1968 and 1967), 'Jerusalem' (1980, 1975 and 1974), and 'The Emergence of Israel as a State' (1948). One theme stands out: "What we desire is equal justice for both Palestinian people and Jewish people in the Middle East," (WCC Executive Committee, Bad Saarow, GDR, 1974), but international law has not been conclusively applied for the collective good.

Most recently, the WCC has requested the Middle East 'Quartet' to give the new Palestine authorities time to develop and demonstrate their policies. The WCC also called Quartet members—the United States, the European Union, Russia and the United Nations—to exercise even-handedness when dealing with the conflict and be the determined and objective third party needed to bring Israeli and Palestinian authorities into equitable negotiations.

Respect for existing agreements is required of both sides. Democracy must be protected where it is taking root. The use of violence pre-empts normal bilateral relations for Israeli as well as Palestinian authorities.

Ending double standards is a prerequisite for peace. The current impasse must be broken. All parties must see the necessity and human benefit in re-aligning current political decisions with long-standing legal commitments and undeniable moral obligations. The precious, life-saving opportunity is now.

The Executive Committee of the World Council of Churches, meeting in Bossey, Switzerland, 16-19 May 2006:

Urges the international community to establish contact and engage with all the legitimately elected leaders of the Palestinian people for the resolution of differences, and not to isolate them or cause additional suffering among their people;

Strongly supports, and calls the international community to support, two-way and equitable negotiations as the path to mutual recognition between Israel and Palestine and to the resolution of other contentious and substantive obstacles to peace as noted in the succession of United Nations Security Council and General Assembly resolutions.

Recommends that, in the interests of equitable treatment and as a new foundation for peace, both parties to the conflict be held to one and the same standard for ending violence, meeting their existing agreements and recognizing each other's existence including the 1967 borders.

Insists that all High Contracting Parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention (including Israel, the U.S., States of the European Union, Russia, and the repository state, Switzerland) ensure the well-being of the occupied population. Urgent actions include ending the punitive measures imposed on the Palestinian people in violation of the Fourth Geneva Convention and its prohibition of collective punishment—including the tax, aid and travel restrictions imposed after their recent democratic elections—and requiring the occupying power to fulfil its responsibilities for the well-being of the population in all areas it controls, including the Gaza Strip.

Reminds the United Nations and its member states of UN responsibility to make Jerusalem an open and inclusive city for the two peoples and three religions, shared in terms of sovereignty and citizenship.

Encourages the government of Israel to base its security on peace with all its neighbours, including the equitable negotiation of final borders with those neighbours and excluding the unilateral imposition of borders on those neighbours.

Encourages the Palestinian Authority to include parties across the political spectrum in the processes of democracy and of non-violent conflict resolution, to protect the democratic rights of its people from external pressures as legitimate rights under international law, to maintain the existing one-party cease-fire toward Israel and extend it to cover all parties, and to demonstrate that all forms of violence and attacks across the 1967 borders between Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories against innocent civilians on either side must stop.

Calls member churches and the WCC to share solidarity with people on both sides of the conflict as a witness for peace:

- *Advocate* for the measures indicated above, reflecting world-wide church concern at the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, the implications of the conflict in different regions, and the ever more urgent need for remedial actions by the responsible authorities; use legitimate forms of pressure to promote a just peace and to end unlawful activities by Israelis or Palestinians.
- *Find constructive ways to address* threats experienced among the Jewish people, including the nature, prevalence and impact of racism in local, national and international contexts.
- *Heed calls for help* from the churches of Jerusalem at this time of trial, assist them in their service to society and support church aid work with people in need; seek help from churches in the Middle East to educate churches elsewhere about the conflict, the region and the path to peace; pray for peace.
- *Send church members* to Israel and Palestine as part of the Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel until the occupation ends.
- *Engage in dialogue with churches* that link current events in the Middle East with certain Biblical prophecies. Such dialogue would include concrete and legitimate political perspectives on justice, the impact of such linkages on the presence and witness of the Christian churches of the region, and discussions about the nature of Christian

witness for peace in the Middle East.

- *Work to enhance the security of all* people in the region, in accordance with the WCC Ninth Assembly Minute, by urging relevant governments to support the establishment in the Middle East of a Nuclear-Weapons-Free Zone to include Israel and Iran.

The Executive Committee further **requested** the Commission of the Churches on International Affairs and related church organizations to use their capacities to fulfil the recommendations expressed in the above Statement.

Dean Gadegaard asked if plans were in hand for a visit to Israel/Palestine and in particular the Ecumenical Centre in Jerusalem.

The General Secretary stated that there were plans to increase the WCC's involvement in the Middle East, as was indicated by the specific mention of the Middle East in the draft document 'Programmes 2007-2013'. The WCC had a role of coordination to perform with the many agencies active in the region.

4.2.4 Statement on Sudan

Mr Weiderud then presented the proposed Statement on Sudan. There had been some changes to the original draft presented to the Executive Committee, including a reference to the UN Security Council Resolution adopted just two days previously on 16 May 2006.

Discussion

Mr McGeoch requested that 'vigorous advocacy efforts' should be made, not just at diplomatic level, but also at grass-roots level.

Bishop Abrahams requested that appreciation be expressed, in addition to the Sudanese churches and the Sudan Ecumenical Forum, also to the All Africa Conference of Churches by name.

The proposals to include the above additions were **accepted by unanimous consensus.**

Bishop Aykazian observed that in speaking of Sudan we are speaking of a country that has experienced genocide. However, in the proposed Statement, the word 'genocide' was not used, nor was there mention of the need to bring to justice those guilty of perpetrating it. He further urged churches to send delegations to Sudan to show solidarity.

Mr Weiderud, responding, stated that 'genocide' is a specific term, entailing action by the international community. He agreed that the United States had used the word 'genocide' in relation to the events in Darfur, but the United Nations, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees and the UN Security Council had not used it. Including 'genocide' in the Statement would create problems and ask for actions that would not have support from all member churches.

Bishop Aykazian asked whether it was always WCC policy to follow the policy of the United Nations.

Mr Weiderud replied that it was not WCC policy to follow others in their judgements. It had been the WCC's own decision not to call the situation in Darfur genocide.

The General Secretary added that, while the WCC did not have to follow UN policy and did determine its own policy, we did work closely with the UN in many areas. He proposed that the Public Issues Sub-Committee do further work on the Statement, possibly indicating the need for research to establish whether the events in Darfur constituted genocide or not.

The Executive Committee **agreed by unanimous consensus to refer back** the issues of a possible genocide and of prosecution of perpetrators to the Public Issues Sub-Committee.

Metropolitan Gennadios, presiding, at a later session, asked Mr Weiderud to present the Sub-Committee's proposals on these matters.

Mr Weiderud, on behalf of the Public Issues Sub-Committee, presented a revised draft of the Statement incorporating changes reflecting the concerns expressed by the Executive Committee.

A new sentence had been added: 'The gravity of these crimes against humanity, by some even named as 'genocide', pose a serious challenge to the international community that has a moral responsibility to bring the perpetrators to justice.' The need for the ecumenical community 'to make fact-finding and solidarity visits to the region' had also been added.

Discussion

The discussion centred on the use of the word 'genocide'.

Mr Weiderud explained that the word 'genocide' had legal implications, entailing full-scale intervention by the international community. Genocide had been defined in the 1948 Genocide Convention, and the UNHCR had not yet concluded that the Darfur situation constituted genocide, as there was not enough evidence of its being systematic. It would thus not be appropriate for us to use the word ourselves, except in inverted commas, attributing its use to others.

Some members of the Committee expressed a preference for the formulation, 'by some even considered as "genocide"' and that variation was **accepted by unanimous consensus.**

The Executive Committee then **accepted by unanimous consensus** the following

STATEMENT ON SUDAN

The fate of the people of Sudan seems to oscillate between hope and despair.

After the earlier signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) on 9th January 2005 came the sudden death of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army (SPLM/A) leader, John Garang. This tragic event was soon taken over by the developments in Darfur that posed a serious challenge often un-precedented humanitarian disaster because of the atrocities being committed by the "Janjaweed" militias supported by the government of Sudan. The conflict spilled over into Chad creating the possibility of an inter-state war. Fortunately, under the growing pressure from the international community and media, a peace agreement was finally signed between the government of Sudan and Sudan Liberation Army (SLA) in Abuja, Nigeria on 5th May 2006. It is hoped that these agreements will finally bring peace to Darfur and southern Sudan after a long festering conflict in which the large number of victims have been women and children.

The historic Sudan CPA mentioned above was signed between the ruling National Congress Party (NCP) and the SPLM/A. It brought an end to one of Africa's longest and bloodiest civil wars, but is now showing signs of crisis and strain. Over the period of 21 years conflict, famine and disease have killed more than two million people, forced an estimated 628,000 Sudanese refugees to the neighbouring countries and internally displaced more than four million people within the country. The CPA provides for a six-year interim period with democratic elections by 2009, and an autonomous government in the South. This is to be followed by self-determination for the South. In the interim, the Agreement mandates power and wealth sharing arrangements. It also guarantees the SPLM's representation in the federal government of Sudan. Although power and wealth sharing procedures are clearly laid out in the agreement and the protocols, the actual implementation of the recommendations are not taking place. As a result, the actual formation of an effective administration in the South, the functioning arm of the government of Sudan, is slow and the withdrawal of the "Khartoum Government" from the South is even slower.

The international community has a huge physical presence in Sudan devoted to monitoring the CPA. It has, however, this far failed to live up to its mandate as a guarantor of the peace agreement and has not been able to seriously

engage and challenge the parties concerned.

The security sector provisions remain the most critical part of the Agreement in order to ensure its sustainability. If these are not implemented and monitored carefully, a return to war is likely. The disengagement of forces, including disarmament, demobilisation process and redeployment of the Sudan Armed Forces from the South and that of SPLA from the North are behind schedule.

The SPLA/M have to literally build a government administration from scratch. Establishing such a functional government in southern Sudan will be a long and difficult process. Also transforming SPLA into a regular army is not going to be easy and little progress has been made in this direction.

There are disturbing and alarming signs that the carefully and skilfully drafted CPA globally acknowledged as a major success may collapse. There is a real danger of renewed conflict unless the churches of Sudan, the ecumenical fellowship and the international community together respond to the political and economic challenges and move from monitoring to action.

While the negotiations to end the war in the South were under way, another conflict erupted in Darfur, western Sudan, in April 2003 when the locally based SLM/A attacked the security forces of the government of Sudan. This resulted in humanitarian emergency in Darfur that affected an estimated 2.6 million, including 2 million displaced persons and over 200,000 refugees in eastern Chad. Tens of thousands of civilians have been killed or arbitrarily detained and women raped. The international community's response to these systematic killings, rape, displacement and looting that have characterised the armed conflict in Darfur over the last three years has been too little, too late. The gravity of these crimes against humanity, by some even considered as "genocide", pose a serious challenge to the international community that has a moral responsibility to bring the perpetrators to justice. As a result, Darfur faces an ominous humanitarian crisis of gigantic proportion.

The UN Security Council and many international organisations have passed several resolutions raising concerns about war crimes and crimes against humanity that are being committed in Darfur by the Sudanese government, its security forces and government backed "Janjaweed" militias. The international community has repeatedly demanded that the Sudanese government disarms the militia and prosecute individuals responsible for the crimes. However, none of these appeals and demands have been implemented. On 16th May 2006, the UN Security Council adopted a resolution under Chapter 7 to establish a Peace-Keeping Force in the region. It is hoped this will pave the way for implementation of the 5th May Agreement.

After the Rwanda genocide the international community stated "*never again will we allow this to happen*". Yet once again in Darfur there is much talk but little action to stop the carnage. This is not because of lack of information but because of lack of political will. The 9th WCC Assembly in Porto Alegre, Brazil, on the issue of "*Responsibility to Protect*" stated:

> *"States can no longer hide behind the pretexts of sovereignty to perpetuate human rights violations against their citizens and live in total impunity".*

The Executive Committee of the World Council of Churches, meeting in Bossey, Switzerland, 16-19 May 2006:

Expresses appreciation to the international community for the role it has played in facilitating the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement and the recent Darfur peace agreement, and to the African Union for the crucial role it has played in bringing the parties together;

Congratulates the Government of Sudan for its co-operation in bringing the conflict to an end and signing the peace agreements and appeals to President Omar Hassan Ahmad al-Bashir to provide full protection and guarantee of safety of national and international humanitarian workers in Sudan and take every step to ensure the speedy implementation of the provisions of these agreements in their letter and spirit;

Condemns atrocities committed on innocent Sudanese civilians, particularly women and children, by parties to the conflicts;

Encourages the UN Security Council to take urgent and decisive action under its Chapter 7 resolution adopted on 16th May 2006 to ensure that Sudanese civilians are protected, and further to take all steps necessary for the implementation of the terms of the 5th May Agreement signed in Abuja;

Urges the governments of Sudan and Chad to resolve their differences through dialogue and prevent any action that may jeopardise the security of the region;

Urges also the ecumenical fellowship to undertake advocacy and lobby work for the implementation of the agreements, make fact-finding and solidarity visits to the region and provide the much-needed humanitarian assistance and support;

Challenges the international community to provide the urgently required humanitarian assistance for the people of Sudan;

Calls on IGAD together with USA, UK, Norway and Italy to urgently refocus their efforts on bolstering the implementation process of the CPA and to hold the parties accountable to the agreement;

Appreciates the role of the Sudanese Churches, the Sudan Ecumenical Forum, All Africa Conference of Churches (AACC) and other ecumenical partners for promotion of peace and justice in Sudan; requests the ecumenical family to undertake vigorous advocacy efforts, both by diplomatic means and at the grassroots' level, for the implementation the peace agreements and continue their efforts to encourage initiatives for control of small arms in the region and in particular in Sudan;

Calls on the Sudanese Churches and their ecumenical partners to review the relief, rehabilitation, resettlement needs and prepare a comprehensive plan of action.

Metropolitan Gennadios expressed the thanks of the Executive Committee to the Public Issues Sub-Committee for their work.

The Moderator then expressed the thanks of the Executive Committee to Mr Weiderud, who would be leaving the service of the WCC on 31 July 2006 after four years as CCIA Director. He had shown great competence in his work and was now returning to Sweden to be a political advisor in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Mr Weiderud thanked the Moderator for his kind words.

5. FINANCE

The Executive Committee met **in hearing session.**

5.1 Finance Report

Dr Hendriks-Ririmasse, presiding, invited Dr William Temu to give the financial report.

Dr Temu presented tables giving Consolidated Results 2005 compared with forecast, and Consolidated Results 2005 compared with 2004. The audit process was not yet complete, but the Audit Committee would meet in three days' time and thereafter the 2005 accounts would be published and sent out. A final report would be given to the next Central Committee meeting. The accounts showed an increase in funds of CHF 1,957,000 (compared with CHF 622,000 in 2004, and the forecast for 2005 of CHF 610,000), a good result.

As for the current year, he presented a summary of financial results and a summary of the Assembly accounts for the period January – March 2006.

Dr Hendriks-Ririmasse invited questions and comments.

Ms Lansdowne asked if there would be a full audit report.

Dr Temu replied that the Finance Committee of the Central Committee would meet with the auditors at their September meeting.

The General Secretary added that the Council was now well on the way to replenishing its financial reserves to the ideal level of six months' staff salaries. There was now a need to identify non-traditional sources of funding, since many existing funders were themselves facing reduced income. He was particularly grateful to the finance staff, who had worked hard to produce these accounts so early.

Discussion

Some of the points made in the ensuing general discussion were as follows.

There were many reassuring elements in the figures. Particular attention was drawn to the level of investment and currency gains at CHF 1,566,000 as against a forecast of CHF 790,000. Such large gains were exceptional and without them the result would not have been as good.

The increase in Restricted Funds of CHF 333,000 (as opposed to a forecast decrease of CHF 995,000) was due to the fact that appropriate programmes for them to be used for were not yet in place.

There were large variations in Assembly income and expenditure as compared with budget. Hire of premises and equipment was considerably above budget, as the offices at Porto Alegre had had to be rewired to provide sufficient capacity for computers. On the other hand, the 1,000 more participants than originally planned had resulted in a higher level of income from registration fees.

Dr Hendriks-Ririmasse thanked Dr Temu for his report and his responses to the points raised.

5.2 Report of the Finance Sub-Committee

The Executive Committee met **in decision session.**

Dr Altmann, presiding, invited Dr Hendriks-Ririmasse to present the Report of the Finance Sub-Committee. Dr Hendriks-Ririmasse requested Ms Lansdowne, sub-committee rapporteur, to read the report.

Ms Lansdowne gave the report.

5.2.1 Review of draft Financial Report 2005

The Finance Sub-Committee reviewed the draft Financial Report 2005, which presents a net increase to funds and reserves of CHF 1.9 million, of which CHF 1.6 million is an increase to the General Reserves. General Reserves total CHF 6.3 million, compared with a longer-term target of CHF 9.4 million set by Central Committee. In the light of this time of challenge and change, the Sub-committee considered the following points to be of importance:

- Current investments exceed Programme Funds by CHF 1.7 million; the obligations of the Council are covered, and CHF 1.7 million in investments is thus available to the Council as part of the backing for the General Reserves;
- Long-term loans total CHF 18.9 million and are guaranteed by the Council's buildings. CHF 11.2 million was used to build the residential building; CHF 7 million for the renovation of Bossey, and only CHF 0.7 million is borrowed for and guaranteed by the Ecumenical Centre building;
- Long-term liabilities include a vacation provision of CHF 0.6 million, which is to be reduced, both to ensure the welfare of staff, and to release funds for the General Reserves;
- Funds and Reserves include CHF 2.2 million of programme fund balances, designated by the governing bodies in the past for specific purposes. CHF 0.5 million has been applied for the assembly in 2006

in accordance with the budget. The CHF 1.7 million remaining will require to be re-designated in due course.

The draft Financial Report 2005 requires to be approved and authorized for issue by the Council before signature by the auditors of the audit report. During recent years, after review by the Audit Committee, the draft financial statements have been approved for issue by either the Officers, or the Officer of the Finance Committee.

Given that the Officers of the Finance Committee are yet to be appointed, the Finance Sub-committee **recommends** that the Executive Committee delegate to the Officers the authority to approve and authorize for issue the consolidated financial statements 2005.

The Executive Committee **accepted the above recommendation by unanimous consensus**.

5.2.2 Review of results to March 2006

The Sub-Committee reviewed the results to March. First quarter income lagged behind the pro-rata budget; however, this is a usual trend for a first quarter, and current forecasts indicate that the contribution budget will be met. Operating and other programme costs stood at 43% of budget on a total basis; however, when assembly costs and budget are set aside, the percentage of costs compared to budget for all programmes decreased to 21%, and is thus within plan.

First quarter results included a report on assembly income and expenditure compared with the annual budget, which indicated an overall shortfall of CHF 88,000. Not all budgeted assembly contributions are yet collected; and forecasts now indicate that contributions may exceed budget by CHF 600,000. Remaining costs will also be reported, including assembly office staff costs up to September. At this stage, the indication is that the assembly financial results will present a modest surplus.

The Finance Sub-Committee **recommends** that the Executive Committee require that:

a) An assembly financial report compared to forecast be presented to the Finance Committee in September;
b) In September, should a surplus be reported for the assembly, consideration be given by the Finance Committee to returning all or part of the CHF 200,000 transferred from the Jubilee Fund to the assembly in 2005;
c) Quarterly financial management reports be distributed to the Officers of the Finance Committee, while monthly reports continue to be monitored by the staff leadership group.

The Executive Committee **accepted the above recommendation by unanimous consensus.**

5.2.3 Implementation of Assembly Finance Committee's recommendations

The Finance Sub-Committee reviewed the recommendations in order to focus on specific steps and deliverables for the Finance Committee in September, while identifying other longer-term objectives.

(i) The planning process

The Finance Sub-Committee is committed to ensuring the assembly recommendation that budgets be both realistic and responsible. The Sub-committee noted that steps have been taken towards completion of the action plan described in the AFC report. For the planning process 2007-2009, a significant contribution is being made by an interim Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting (PMER) co-ordinator. It is acknowledged that a PMER position will be established. It was also noted that as yet, no presentation has been made of the staffing required for the programme plans, nor has a report on discussions with the REOs and NCCs been presented.

There are two principal concerns. Firstly, the capacity and skills of the existing staff require to be assessed in relation to the new objectives and ability to adopt effectively the new working style. Secondly, the Human Resources department requires to be strengthened to offer the services required.

The Finance Sub-Committee **recommends** that the Executive Committee require that:

- A comprehensive staff training and development programme be implemented, ensuring that:
  staff are competent to work with goals, objectives and indicators for achievement as defined in the PMER process already introduced; and staff's IT, programme management and financial monitoring skills are strengthened.
- The Human Resources department similarly implement a staff performance review process focusing on measurable annual performance objectives.
- A progress report on the steps taken in implementing these objectives be presented to the Finance Committee and the Staffing and Nominations Committee in September.

The Executive Committee **accepted the above recommendation by unanimous consensus.**

(ii) Membership income

The Finance Sub-Committee **recommends** that efforts to continue dialogue with the member churches on their membership contributions be enhanced. A multi-faceted approach should be adopted, taking into account contextual realities. Every opportunity should be taken by programme staff to discuss contributions when visiting churches. Governing bodies, consultative groups, including the proposed youth body, should all play an active role in raising income. The new programme plans and sharpened focus of the Council's work offer a new entry point for discussions.

(iii) New work methods

The Finance Sub-committee **recommends** that Executive Committee require that the following documents be presented for discussion at the Finance Committee in September:

- The cost-benefit analysis of using small, external structures, including those used by the International Ecumenical Initiatives (EHAIA and EAPPI), to accomplish the Council's work; and
- An interim policy statement for both the recruitment and management of staff in those structures.

The Executive Committee **accepted the above recommendation by unanimous consensus.**

(iv) Staffing issues

The Finance Sub-committee noted that certain recommendations can be implemented without further policy development, including the approach to renewal of contracts, the active recruitment of competent younger staff, and attention to ensure that recruitment procedures are open to external applicants, transparent, and respectful of regional and confessional diversity.

The review of staff rules and regulations is a longer-term endeavour to be led by the General Secretary. It should be ensured that this work is planned during 2007.

Concerning the vacation provision mentioned at point 1, and to meet the recommendation agreed by Executive Committee in September 2005, Finance Sub-committee **recommends** that action be taken immediately to revise staff regulations so that only five working days' vacation may be carried forward in 2007.

The Finance Sub-Committee **recommends** that the Executive Committee require that the format and definitions of the staff statistics report be defined and implemented by September, in accordance with the second recommendation set out at point 4 of the Assembly Finance Committee Report.

The General Secretary asked for clarification regarding the meaning of the above recommendation.

Dean Gadegaard explained that the Assembly Finance Committee had requested clearer staff reports giving the total number of staff employed (full-time, part-time, Geneva-based and based elsewhere), the number of full-time equivalent posts, and total salary costs.

Dr Pickens enquired if such statistics would include individual salaries.

The General Secretary responded that, in response to the Assembly Finance Committee's recommendation, the number of full-time equivalent posts, both in Geneva and elsewhere, and total salary costs would be given, but not individual salaries.

Dr Pitts stressed the need to indicate that this was in response to the Assembly Finance Committee's request.

Ms Lansdowne suggested adding to the original recommendation words such as 'according to the Assembly Finance Committee's Report'.

Dr Handriks-Ririmasse, as moderator of the Finance Sub-Committee, agreed to the addition.

The Executive Committee **accepted the above recommendation, in the form given above, by unanimous consensus.**

(v) Income strategy

The Finance Sub-Committee requests that the Income Strategy 2006-2008 be updated for review at the Finance Committee, taking into consideration the plans 2007-2009.

When future recruitments in income development are considered, the level of a candidate's experience in fund-raising should be of primary importance.

(vi) Buildings

The Finance Sub-Committee **recommends** that the Executive Committee require that proposals for the renovation of the Ecumenical Centre buildings be presented to the Finance Committee in September. The proposals should present short-term and longer-term plans, offering different alternatives. The alternative financing structures should also be presented for review.

Ms Lansdowne added that these renovations were necessary to bring the security of the Ecumenical Centre up to the standards required under Swiss regulations.

The Executive Committee **accepted the above recommendation by unanimous consensus.**

(vii) Committee Mandates

The Finance Sub-Committee discussed the current status of the mandates and committee membership of both the Audit Committee and the Investment Advisory Group, acknowledging the contributions of the professional volunteers on both committees.

The Finance Sub-Committee **recommends** that revised mandates for both the committees be presented for review at the Finance Committee in September.

The Executive Committee **accepted the above recommendation by unanimous consensus.**

(viii) WCC Pension Fund

The Finance Sub-Committee noted that a commitment has been made to ensure that the Pension Fund Board is informed in a timely manner of the significant consequences of any staffing plans and decisions. It was discussed that new representatives of the employer will require to be identified and nominated in September.

5.2.4 Finance Committee Orientation

The Finance Sub-Committee **recommends** that a summary of the responsibilities of the Finance Committee be prepared for the information of the new Finance Committee members. In addition, introductory information on organizational structure and a glossary of terms should be made available for the members at the first Finance Committee meeting.

The Executive Committee **accepted the above recommendation by unanimous consensus.**

Dr Altmann thanked the Finance Sub-Committee for their work.

6. PROGRAMME 2007 - 2013

6.1 Proposed Programme

The Executive Committee met **in hearing session.**

Metropolitan Gennadios, presiding, invited the General Secretary to introduce the draft document 'Programmes 2007 – 2013. Consolidated Plan for 2007 – 2009'.

The General Secretary described the process of translating the Assembly mandates into specific programmes for adoption by the Central Committee at its next meeting. The present examination of the draft document by the Executive Committee was a decisive, yet intermediate, step in the process.

The process was highly participatory, involving full participation by staff and listening to the churches' and the broader ecumenical constituency's post-Assembly expectations. What was being looked for was broad ownership both of the process and its outcome.

The Assembly had affirmed that programmes should be as integrated and interactive as possible, and that same principle had been built into the actual planning process. An important feature of the process was that future programmes were being discussed in mixed staff groups and not in existing teams.

Emerging concerns from consultations with the wider ecumenical community were: the implications of the WCC's being the 'privileged instrument' of the ecumenical movement; clarification of what 'ecumenical spirituality' is; and the need to examine the place of commissions/advisory groups within the changing pattern of programmes.

Metropolitan Gennadios then invited Mr Lemopoulos to summarize the Assembly's mandates that were to be translated into concrete programmes.

Mr Lemopoulos expressed deep gratitude to the relevant Assembly committees (Programme Guidelines, Policy Reference and Finance) and their leadership. In his experience of dealing three times with post-Assembly decisions, this was the first time we were not being confronted with overlapping or conflicting reports from Assembly committees.

The major findings set out by the Assembly committees could be summarized as follows

- the WCC had a unique role within the ecumenical movement

- the need for integrated and interactive ways of working
- the need to build relationships and communication into programme work
- the need to do less and do it well
- the need for programmes to have a sharper focus
- the need to establish a Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting (PMER) process.

The present programme planning exercise needed to bear in mind these parameters drawn from the reports of the Assembly committees.

Metropolitan Gennadios then invited Dr Temu to speak on the budgetary and staffing implications of the planning process.

Dr Temu responded that it was not possible to say much until the new pattern of programme work was determined. He anticipated, however, that the finance available for 2007 would not be less than that available for the current year. One budgetary implication would be the cost of staff retraining. There was one essential budgeted allocation for the current year and that was CHF 2.04 million to the general reserve.

Metropolitan Gennadios closed the session.

After a break, the Executive Committee continued **in hearing session**.

Metropolitan Gennadios, presiding, invited Mr Oxley and Dr Gnanadason to give a general introduction to the draft document 'Programmes 2007 – 2013. Consolidated Plan for 2007 – 2009'.

Dr Gnanadason and Mr Oxley introduced the document. In the course of 48 pages it described 31 proposed projects in seven programme areas as follows:

1. WCC as an instrument of the ecumenical movement
2. Unity, Mission and Spirituality
3. Public Witness

4. Decade to Overcome Violence
5. Justice and Diakonia
6. Ecumenical and Faith Formation
7. Inter-religious Dialogue and Cooperation

They stressed that the document was a production by mixed staff groups. The old staff teams no longer existed and all staff were working towards the new programmes. Relationships and Communication would be built into all programmes and would not be separate programmes themselves.

They then worked through the document, briefly describing each programme, under which was given its specific objective, description, timing, methodology, communication plan, relationships plan, list of activities and expected results. The communication plan and the relationships plan for each programme were blank in the present document as they had not yet been elaborated but that would be done after the present meeting.

Discussion

The committee then broke into buzz groups, each of which reported.

Many points were made and noted, to be taken into discussion of the document in the Programme Sub-Committee.

Warm appreciation was expressed for the amount of work done so soon after the Assembly.

The General Secretary gave an illustration of the implications of the 'integrated and interactive' style of working. A given staff member would have a programme portfolio for which they were responsible and to which they would devote, say, 80% of their time. A further 20% of their time would then be devoted to another programme or programmes, in cooperation with the person primarily responsible for them.

Metropolitan Gennadios closed the session and, at his invitation, Bishop Azariah ended the day's business with prayer.

The following morning, after worship, the Executive Committee continued **in hearing session.**

Metropolitan Gennadios, presiding, led a discussion of the document examining each proposed programme area in turn. Comments would be recorded and fed into the discussion of the Programme Sub-Committee.

Two full sessions, of 1½ hours each, were devoted to discussion of the document.

Discussion

The plea was repeated that the Council should do less and do it better. If there was one third less money for programmes, they had to be reduced by one third. There was not enough staff time or money to carry out all these proposed programmes and setting priorities was a necessity.

Again, appreciation was expressed to the General Secretary and the staff for the preparation of the document.

Further consideration of the document was then passed to the Programme Sub-Committee, who would, in the light of this discussion, make recommendations to the Executive Committee in their report.

Metropolitan Gennadios indicated that any further comments could be submitted in writing to the Programme Sub-Committee and closed the session.

6.2 Report of the Programme Sub-Committee

The Executive Committee met **in decision session.**

Metropolitan Gennadios, presiding, invited Dr Altmann to give the Report of the Programme Sub-Committee.

Dr Altmann presented the report.

6.2.1 Introduction and General Recommendations

The task of the Sub-Committee on Programme was to review the proposal for WCC Programmes 2007-2013.

The general opinion in the Sub-Committee on Programme was that the present proposal presenting seven main programme areas, with a total of 31 projects needed to become more focused; thus the Sub-Committee embarked on a process of reducing and merging on both the programme and project levels. The recommendations below will reduce the programme areas to six, and the projects to 25.

The Sub-Committee on Programme is conscious of the fact that further work on priority setting within the programmatic work is needed.

Reflecting upon the content of the programmes and projects listed in the draft document, the Sub-Committee on Programme noted difficulties with some of the words proposed, and is therefore proposing some changes, taking into account that there still will be a need, as well, for further reflection on the names of some of the programmes and projects, as the content, objectives and activities are sharpened (e.g. in relation to the concept of "spirituality").

The work in the Programme Sub-Committee built on the observations and comments made during the plenary session of the Executive Committee, and it was noted that these comments should be taken into consideration as the staff continues to elaborate the programmes, projects and activities.

The Sub-Committee on Programme noted with appreciation that a system for planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting is being developed, and that a communication plan as well as a relationships plan will be included in every

project in accordance with recommendations from the Assembly Programme Guidelines Committee. The Sub-Committee on Programme also stressed the fact that the Assembly Programme Guidelines Committee recommended as well that a clear distinction be made between issues that are of a long-term nature, time-bound, or specifically urgent, and that concrete time-frames (including exit strategies) for programmatic work be established.

The Sub-Committee on Programme noted the urgent need for the WCC to develop an overall communication strategy, in order to be able to claim a clearer and stronger public profile and voice. The Sub-Committee therefore gave some thoughts to the possibility of creating a specific project on "Communication and Publications" to be placed within programme area 1 or 3, but was hesitant as to whether this would be the best option to address that specific need.

The programme sub-committee recommends:

a) that the comments made during the plenary session of the Executive Committee be taken into consideration in the further planning process of the programmatic work;
b) that time-frames (including exit strategies) for programmatic work be established; and
c) that the General Secretary be asked to bring a clear proposal concerning an overall communication strategy to the next Executive Committee meeting.

Dr Altmann added that the sub-committee had not had time to examine every programme in detail, but had discussed the overall pattern of programme work.

Discussion

The General Secretary questioned the possible creation of a specific project on 'Communication and Publications'. In the past, having a distinct Communication Department had made it difficult for that department to serve

the whole Council. It had become an area contending for its own place. It needed to be a service to all programmes. He shared the sub-committee's hesitation as to whether a specific project on Communication and Publications would be the best option.

Ms Aasa-Marklund stressed that, while the sub-committee had discussed this matter, it was hesitant, as was mentioned in the report. Hence the request to the General Secretary to bring a clear proposal concerning an overall communication strategy to the next Executive Committee meeting.

The Executive Committee **accepted the above recommendations by unanimous consensus.**

Dr Altmann then presented the sub-committee's recommendations for the various programmme areas.

6.2.2 Programme Area 1: WCC and the Ecumenical Movement in the 21st Century

There had been some discussion on the title for programme 1.1. The title in the draft document had been 'Interpretation and reception of the CUV process'. The sub-committee was now proposing that it be changed to 'Interpreting the ecumenical vision'. Other changes were also proposed.

Discussion

The General Secretary defended the original title. It was an acknowledgement of the Assembly's concern that work should be done on implementing CUV and its reception by the churches.

Dr Altmann agreed with the concern, but felt that the specific mention of CUV created a communication barrier to its reception. The sub-committee had no intention to set CUV aside or change the programme.

Archbishop Nifon proposed a return to the original title.

Dr Altmann had no objection.

There was widespread agreement to return to a slight variation of the original title: 'Interpreting the Common Understanding and Vision Process'.

Ms Vasko felt that the original title failed to communicate the desired intention, but indicated her acceptance of the majority position.

The recommendation for Programme Area 1 before the Executive Committee, after the above discussion, was thus:

1. WCC and the ecumenical movement in the 21st century
    1.1 Interpreting the Common Understanding and Vision process
    1.2 Global Platform for Theological Reflection and Analysis
    1.3 Nurturing Relationships with Member Churches
    1.4 Consulting ecumenical organizations

The Executive Committee **accepted the above varied recommendation by agreed consensus.**

6.2.3 Programme Area 2: Unity, Mission and Spirituality

Dr Altmann then presented the sub-committee's recommendation for programme area 2:

2. Unity, Mission and Spirituality
    2.1 Called to be the One Church
    2.2 Spirituality in the Ecumenical Movement
    2.3 Perspectives on Mission and Unity in view of 2010
    2.4 Churches becoming more Just and Inclusive Communities

The Executive Committee **accepted the above recommendation by unanimous consensus.**

6.2.4 Programme Area 3: Public Witness

Dr Altmann presented the sub-committee's recommendations for Programme Area 3. The sub-committee was recommending that Programme Area 4 in the draft document 'Decade to Overcome Violence' be incorporated as a programme into Programme Area 3.

The sub-committee had also discussed the title of the programme on Poverty, Wealth and Ecology. The title in the draft document had been 'Ecumenical Reflection and Action on Poverty, Wealth and Ecology'. The sub-committee was now proposing that it be changed to 'Common Reflection and Action on Poverty, Wealth and Ecology'.

Archbishop Nifon proposed a return to the originally proposed title, which included the word 'Ecumenical'.

The Executive Committee was equally divided between 'Ecumenical Reflection…' and 'Common Reflection**…**'

Ms Lansdowne proposed that no change be made to the original formulation, since the change proposed by the sub-committee was not substantive.

The Executive Committee **agreed to her proposal by unanimous consensus.**

Dr Altmann, continuing the sub-committee's recommendations on programme Area 3, reported that they had also discussed the title of the programmme on the Middle East. The title in the draft document had been 'Churches and the Middle East: Prophetic Witness for Peace'. The sub-committee was now proposing that it be changed to 'Churches and the Middle East: Witness for Peace'. Other minor changes were also proposed.

Discussion

Various wordings were suggested for the programme on the Middle East.

Ms Lansdowne finally proposed: 'Churches and the Middle East: Solidarity and Witness for Peace'.

The Executive Committee **agreed to her proposal by unanimous consensus.**

The recommendation for Programme Area 3 before the Executive Committee, after the above discussion, was thus:

3. Public Witness
   - 3.1 Decade to Overcome Violence: Churches seeking Reconciliation and Peace
   - 3.2 Advocating for Justice and Accountability in Global Governance
   - 3.3 Human Rights to enhance Human Dignity
   - 3.4 Churches and the Middle East: Solidarity and Witness for Peace
   - 3.5 Ecumenical Reflection and Action on Poverty, Wealth and Ecology

The Executive Committee **accepted the above varied recommendation by unanimous consensus.**

6.2.5 Programme Area 4: Justice and Diakonia

Dr Altmann presented the sub-committee's recommendation for Programme Area 4:

4. Justice and Diakonia
   - 4.1 Mutual Accountability
   - 4.2 Ecumenical Solidarity
   - 4.3 Migration, Social Justice and Overcoming Racism
   - 4.4 Faith, Science and Technology
   - 4.5 Caring for Creation – Climate Change and Water
   - 4.6 Health, Healing and HIV/AIDS
   - 4.7 The Ecumenical HIV/AIDS Initiative in Africa

The Executive Committee **accepted the above recommendation by unanimous consensus.**

6.2.6 Programme Area 5: Ecumenical and Faith Formation

Dr Altmann presented the sub-committee's recommendation for Programme Area 5.

The title for this programme area in the draft document had been 'Ecumenical and Faith Formation'. The sub-committee was now proposing that it be changed to 'Ecumenical Formation'.

Discussion

Many members questioned the dropping of the words '...and Faith' in the programme area title. Christians did not only need ecumenical formation but also formation in their faith. While this was a task for the churches themselves and not for the WCC, it would strengthen the churches in their task if the need were acknowledged in the programme area title.

The Executive Committee thus **agreed by unanimous consensus** to the title 'Ecumenical and Faith Formation' for programme area 5.

The recommendation for programme area 5, after the above discussion, was thus:

5. Ecumenical and Faith Formation
   5.1 Enabling Ecumenical Formation
   5.2 Contextual Ecumenical Theological Education
   5.3 Ecumenical Formation at Bossey Ecumenical Institute

The Executive Committee **accepted the above varied recommendation by unanimous consensus.**

6.2.7 Programme Area 6: Inter-religious Dialogue and Cooperation

Dr Altmann presented the sub-committee's recommendation for Programme Area 6.

The separate programmes for women and youth in the draft document were now being omitted, since the involvement of women and youth did not depend on their having separate programmes. It was not intended to omit the involvement of women and youth in this area of work.

The recommendation for Programme Area 6 before the Executive Committee was:

6. Inter-religious Dialogue and Cooperation
   6.1 Deepening Trust through Enhancing Dialogue
   6.2 Accompanying Churches in Critical Situations

The Executive Committee **accepted the above recommendation by unanimous consensus.**

The Executive Committee then **agreed by unanimous consensus** to transmit the new Programme Structure (cf. Appendix III), incorporating the six programme areas and 25 projects to the staff for further development and presentation to the next Central Committee meeting.

Metropolitan Gennadios thanked Dr Altmann, the Programme Sub-Committee and the members of the Executive Committee for their work on the future programme work of the Council and closed the session.

7. STAFFING AND NOMINATIONS

7.1 Membership Matters

The Executive Committee met **in hearing session.**

Dr Margaretha Hendriks-Ririmasse, presiding, invited Mr Lemopoulos to give a progress report on membership matters.

Mr Lemopoulos reported on applications for membership. (cf. Executive Committee Minutes, September 2005, p. 58). The next Central Committee meeting would be invited to accept the membership application of the Lao Evangelical Church. Regarding the six churches recommended for visits after the Assembly, efforts had been made to prepare for visits, but there were as yet no concrete results to be reported.

During the Assembly, the Independent Presbyterian Church of Brazil had expressed interest in membership. Their file was now nearly complete and a visit was planned for August 2006.

Before and during the Assembly, there had been numerous expressions of interest in membership, in some cases resulting in the process of establishing a file.

The Evangelical Protestant Church of Guinea had withdrawn from membership, as they needed further theological reflection. The leadership of the Fellowship of Christian Councils and Churches in West Africa (FECCIWA) was being requested to visit the church and report their findings.

Various former member churches had also expressed interest in reinstating their membership. In all cases these approaches would be followed up carefully and further details given when appropriate.

The Executive Committee received Mr Lemopoulos's report with appreciation and Dr Hendriks-Ririmasse thanked him for his report.

7.2 Consultative Bodies

The Executive Committee met **in hearing session.**

Dr Altmann, presiding, welcomed Ms Natalie Maxson, Youth Coordinator, and invited Mr Lemopoulos to guide the committee on the process of nominations to consultative bodies.

Mr Lemopoulos presented a paper outlining the process.

Now that the Central Committee, its Nominations Committee and the Executive Committee had been appointed, the next post-Assembly nominations tasks were the appointment of further standing committees of the Central Committee (Programme and Finance, including their moderators, who would become ex-officio members of the Executive Committee), determination of which consultative bodies to establish and their membership.

He outlined guidelines for the process of nominations and gave details of consultative bodies that had existed in the past.

There were five consultative bodies that would automatically continue in existence:

- Faith and Order Standing Commission
- Commission on World Mission and Evangelism
- Commission of the Churches on International Affairs
- Board of the Ecumenical Institute, Bossey
- Permanent Committee on Consensus and Collaboration

Other consultative bodies functioning between the Eighth and Ninth Assemblies had been:

- Commission on Justice, Peace and Creation
- Commission of the Churches on Diakonia and Development
- Joint Working Group between the Roman Catholic Church and the WCC
- Joint Consultative Group WCC-Pentecostals

Following recent developments in the ecumenical movement, two new bodies (coordinating rather than consultative) would have to be appointed:

- Continuation Committee for the Reconfiguration Process

- Coordinating Committee for Cooperation between Christian World Communions and the WCC

The Assembly had also called for the setting up of:

- a 'permanent youth body' to address youth participation in the WCC.

Dr Altmann invited questions and comments.

There was a wide-ranging and detailed discussion, including the following points:

- The number of consultative bodies needs to be reduced, both for reasons of cost and also because, if there were too many consultative bodies, they would overload the Programme Committee's agenda.
- The past pattern of consultative bodies should not simply be reproduced. They need to reflect the new programme structure.
- All consultative bodies have an advisory function and report to the Central Committee via its Programme Committee.
- The Central Committee and the Executive Committee are the only WCC 'governing bodies'.

Suggestions for membership of consultative bodies would be welcome. It would be wrong for proposed lists of members of consultative bodies to be simply staff compilations.

Members of Central Committee and Assembly delegates are eligible for appointment without further endorsement from their churches. In the case of other persons with special expertise endorsement from their churches would have to be sought.

The interim 'youth body' would meet in August 2006, prior to the meeting of the Executive Committee. Youth members should also be included in the other consultative bodies.

Dr Altmann stated that the above and other comments made would be noted by the Staffing and Nominations Sub-Committee as they prepared their recommendations.

The day's proceedings were closed with prayer led by Ms Celestine.

7.3. Central Committee Preparations

The Executive Committee met **in hearing session.**

Dr Hendriks-Ririmasse, presiding, invited the General Secretary to present a proposed programme for the Central Committee meeting in Geneva, 30 August – 6 September 2006.

The General Secretary introduced the proposed programme. The basic pattern was:

- 2 ½ days of hearing sessions
- 2 days in committees
- 2 days of decision sessions for consideration of committee reports which would make 6 ½ days in all, with Sunday being devoted to attendance at church services and a reception and dinner at Bossey.

Salient features were:

- In view of the difficulties experienced at the first meeting of this Central Committee at Porto Alegre, the very first session, after opening worship, would be a community building and orientation session.
- The opening actions would thus take place in the second session.
- There would be Bible study on six mornings, 9.00 – 9.30am.
- There would be two hearing sessions, 'Acting Together for Transformation', marking the fortieth anniversary of the landmark 1966 Church and Society Conference.
- There would be four early evening sessions on 'What does it mean to be a Christian in a community?'

He added that it was customary, for reasons of cost, for all Central Committee meetings to take place in Geneva. A church or group of churches inviting the Central (or Executive) Committee to meet in their country, undertook to meet themselves the costs additional to those of a meeting in Geneva.

In the light of past experience, an attempt would be made to shorten the Moderator's and General Secretary's Reports, so as to allow more time for discussion.

Dr Hendriks-Ririmasse invited discussion.

Various comments were made including the following:

- Hearing sessions, such as 'Acting Together for Transformation' and 'Being a Christian in a Community', that are not directly relevant to committee work, should perhaps be omitted to provide more time for decision-making, particularly at this meeting when we consider the future pattern of programme work.
- The meeting should be planned to make it an enjoyable occasion for Central Committee members.
- Adequate time must be allowed for the translation of committee reports before their presentation to the concluding decision sessions.

Dr Hendriks-Ririmasse assured the committee that these and other comments made would be taken into account by the Staffing and Nominations Sub-Committee as they prepared their report.

7.4 Report of the Staffing & Nominations Sub-Committee

The Executive Committee met **in decision session.**

Dr Hendriks-Ririmasse, presiding, invited Metropolitan Gennadios to present the Report of the Staffing and Nominations Sub-Committee.

Metropolitan Gennadios reported as follows.

7.4.1 Consultative bodies

7.4.1.1 Guidelines for the process of nominations

The sub-committee asks the Executive Committee:

- To confirm the process of nominations.
- To offer suggestions for potential candidates in consultation with member churches or ecumenical organisations as appropriate.

7.4.1.2 Integration of consultative bodies

The sub-committee asks the Executive Committee to authorise the General Secretary:

- To bring a proposal for the integration of the Commission on Justice, Peace and Creation and the Commission on Diakonia and Development to the next Executive Committee.
- To explore possibilities for the integration of the Commission on Education and Ecumenical Formation and the Board of the Ecumenical Institute, Bossey and report to the next Executive Committee.
- To explore possibilities of integration of the Joint Consultative Group WCC - Pentecostals into the work of the Commission on World Mission and Evangelism and report to the next Executive Committee.
- To bring a proposal for the most appropriate consultative body to be created to accompany the work of inter-faith dialogue.

Discussion

The original formulation by the Sub-Committee had proposed exploration of possibilities of integration of the Joint Consultative Group WCC-Pentecostals into the work of the Global Christian Forum. It was observed, however, that the Global Christian Forum needed to maintain some detachment from the WCC itself, because some involved in the Global Christian Forum were hesitant of a closer relationship with the WCC.

In the event, it was **decided by unanimous consensus** to delete all reference to the Global Christian Forum and insert instead (as above) 'the Commission on World Mission and Evangelism'.

7.4.1.3 Proposed body to address youth participation in the WCC

The sub-committee asks the Executive Committee:

- To approve the organisation of an interim 'youth body' to meet just before the next Executive Committee gathering in August 2006 so as to prepare a proposal for a permanent body for action and adoption at the Central Committee.
- To offer names for potential members of the interim youth body in consultation with member churches and ecumenical organisations as appropriate.

The Executive Committee **accepted the above recommendations in the varied form given above by unanimous consensus.**

7.4.2 Central Committee schedule

The sub-committee asks the Executive Committee:

- To propose that morning sessions during Central Committee are scheduled for 1.5 hours and afternoon sessions for 1 hour.
- To shorten the lunch break to 1.5 hours.
- To propose that the last session on Monday 4 September is free of meetings.
- To change the theme for the three sessions on Wednesday 30 August, Thursday 31 August and Tuesday 5 September to 'What does it mean to be a Christian in our own community within a pluralistic society?'

Metropolitan Gennadios added that the last recommendation entailed incorporating the Bible study into the (now only) three early evening sessions and renaming them as above.

Archbishop Nifon observed that the additional 'free' time was not only for the purposes of relaxation, but also for reading of documents.

Ms Lansdowne pleaded for a designated 'quiet space' to which Central Committee members could retire if they wished.

The General Secretary undertook to make such an arrangement.

The Executive Committee **accepted the above recommendations by unanimous consensus.**

Concerning confessional meetings, clarification was given that they would take place in the hotel where committee members would be staying, where two rooms would be available on two evenings, i.e. giving an opportunity for four meetings: Lutheran, Anglican, Orthodox and Reformed.

7.4.3 Committees of Central Committee

The sub-committee asks the Executive Committee members:

- To offer names for potential candidates from amongst Central Committee members for the committees of Central Committee (Finance, Programme, Policy Reference, and Public Issues).

Mr Lemopoulos added that the endorsement from their churches was not necessary for persons thus suggested, as Central Committee members, having been Assembly delegates, already had the endorsement of their churches; whereas persons suggested for members of consultative bodies who had not been Assembly delegates did require their church's endorsement.

Dr Hendriks-Ririmasse thanked the staff members involved for their assistance and declared the entire report of the Staffing and Nominations Committee **accepted by unanimous consensus**.

8. STAFFING REPORT

The Executive Committee met **in closed decision session.**

The Moderator invited the General Secretary to give the Staffing Report.

The General Secretary first described the responsibilities of the Executive Committee in the area of staffing. It was the governing body entrusted with advising him on staff matters (recruitment, appointment, contract renewals) in respect of programme staff. The Executive Committee opens vacancies for programme staff and appoints them (Rule XII, 3 (b)). Between Executive Committee meetings, the committee delegates this function to the Officers, who report to the following Executive Committee meeting.

Other staff, such as administrative assistants, are appointed by the General Secretary himself (Rule XII, 3 (b)).

There are separate provisions for the appointment of the General Secretary, Deputy General Secretary, and Directors for Programme and Management (Rule XII, 2 & 3(a)).

He then presented a written Staffing Report as follows:

I. Appointments & Contract Extensions

There are no new appointments of programme staff to be announced. There are no contracts to be extended for programme executive staff.

II. Departures, Retirements & Resignations

Departures

There were no departures of programme staff since the last Executive Committee meeting in Porto Alegre in February 2006.

The following staff have indicated dates of voluntary departure from the Council as follows:
Ms Marta Palma, Programme Executive, Latin America & Caribbean, Diakonia and Solidarity (30 September 2006)
Ms Marilia Schüller, Programme Executive, Justice Peace & Creation (30 September 2006)
Ms Geneviève Jacques, Director of Programmes (31 October 2006)

Retirements

Mr Melaku Kifle retired on 30 April 2006. (See IV. i below)

Resignations of programme staff

Dr Tarek Mitri (Inter-Religious Relations and Dialogue) resigned from his post w.e.f. 31 March 2006 to take up a ministerial appointment by the government of Lebanon.
Mr Peter Weiderud, Team Coordinator (International Affairs, Peace and Human Security) has announced his resignation and will leave the Council on 31 July 2006.

Notification of non-extension of current contracts

Rev. Dr Lawrence Bropleh, UN Representative - CCIA (31 August 2006)
Mr Douglas Chial, Assembly Coordinator (30 September 2006)

III. Vacancies

1. Faith and Order and Bossey

Programme Executive in F&O/Professor of ecumenical theology at Bossey. The position is seconded by the Christian Church (Disciples). The Officers of the WCC had already announced it vacant. After further exploration, and in anticipation of the new and integrated working style, the proposal is made for this position to be shared between the two areas of work.

2. Bossey

Professor of social ethics (replacement of Prof. Julio de Santa Ana). This would be a second "core" teaching position at Bossey.

IV. Information

The General Secretary assigned Mr Melaku Kifle new tasks following retirement at the end of April up to 30 September 2006.

Rev. Fr Gosbert Byamungu, Professor at Bossey, seconded by the Pontifical Council for Christian Unity (PCPCU-Vatican), will depart after completion of his second term in June 2006.

The following have left/will leave the Council on the following dates:
Ms Joan Cambitsis, long-serving Production Manager, on retirement (30 April 2006)
Mr Daniel Wieser, Finance Assistant in Diakonia and Solidarity (31 May 2006) on voluntary resignation
Mr Lukasz Nazarko, Consultant (May 2006), contract end
Mr Darko Hercigonja, Programmer with CIS, on retirement (30 June 2006)
Mr Luc Hegetschweiler, Bossey (31 July), on voluntary resignation
Ms Elisabeth Visinand, long-serving Administrative Assistant in Public Information team, on retirement (30 April 2006)

The General Secretary has transferred Mr Jean-Nicolas Bazin (Specialised b) from Income Monitoring and Development (IMD) team, to work on Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting (PMER) as recommended by the Assembly. The new place of PMER in the new organisational chart will be evident later as the planning process is finalised.

The General Secretary also presented a staffing list, for information.

Discussion

Various questions were raised by committee members and the General Secretary responded as follows:

There were no new appointments or contract extensions for programme staff, nor were vacancies caused by departures of programme staff being opened (with the two exceptions in the report), so as to give flexibility to the Central Committee in determining future progamme work.

According to Swiss employment law, after seven years a contract becomes 'indefinite'. Such contracts can still be terminated by six months' notice.

Regarding the recommendation of the Assembly Finance Committee that a policy be introduced limiting service to seven years for programme staff (four year contract, then a possible three year extension), such a policy could not be immediately implemented. All programme staff posts would be reviewed and a rolling schedule for implementing the policy would be introduced.

Concerning regional offices, the location of the Pacific Regional Office (at present in Fiji) and of the Middle East Regional Office (at present in Beirut) would be reviewed. There was a need to consider North America as a region. The present arrangement, with the Rev. Deborah DeWinter as a programme executive in the US Office did not mean that she was a North America regional secretary.

Concerning a possible replacement for Ms Marta Palma as Programme Executive for Latin America and the Caribbean in Diakonia and Solidarity, it was possible that her successor could be from the Caribbean.

The Executive Committee **agreed by unanimous consensus** to open the two vacancies:

- Programme Executive in Faith and Order/Professor of Ecumenical Theology at Bossey, and
- Professor of Social Ethics at Bossey.

The Executive Committee also **noted** with gratitude that the first above vacancy, while a secondment by the Christian Church (Disciples), is open by their agreement to applicants from other churches.

The Executive Committee also **noted** with satisfaction the transfer of Mr Jean-Nicolas Bazin to work on Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting (PMER) as a first step to implementing the Assembly decision.

The Moderator wished God's blessing on those committee members shortly to leave and closed the session.

9. EVALUATION OF THE MEETING

Dr Altmann invited participants to share their evaluation of the meeting.

There was general agreement that the meeting had gone well. Committee members had worked well together and quickly created a good atmosphere. Some members had been apprehensive before coming to the meeting, but their fears had been dispelled. They now needed to take the good atmosphere that they had created with them into the coming Central Committee meeting. The younger members of the committee had played an active part in its deliberations. It had been a learning process for them and they expressed appreciation for the encouragement shown them. There was general appreciation for the leadership of the Moderator, the Vice-Moderators and the General Secretary. Appreciation was expressed to the WCC staff for the arrangements made for travel and for the meeting itself, and to the Bossey staff for their care and attention.

A comment was made that, if someone had come into the meeting towards the end, they would not have realized that this was the committee's first meeting, since the members were working and relating so well with one another.

10. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

The General Secretary reminded members of dates already notified:

2006	
Executive Committee	28-29 August (arrivals 27 August)
Central Committee	30 August - 6 September

He also gave proposed dates (excluding travel days) for the following years:

2007	
Executive Committee	27 February – 2 March
Executive Committee	25-28 September
2008	
Executive Committee	11-12 February
Central Committee	13-20 February
Executive Committee	23-26 September
2009	
Executive Committee	17-20 February
Executive Committee	24-25 August
Central Committee	26 August - 2 September
2010	
Executive Committee	23-26 February
Executive Committee	14-17 September
2011	
Executive Committee	14-15 February
Central Committee	16-23 February
Executive Committee	13-16 September
2012	
Executive Committee	14-17 February

Executive Committee	27-28 August
Central Committee	29 August – 5 September
2013	
Executive Committee	19 – 22 February

Dean Gadegaard asked whether all these meetings would be in Geneva. He commented that the last Executive Committee had had two meetings elsewhere, in Denmark and Korea. Such meetings were of great benefit, both to the hosts and to the committee. The extra costs for a meeting outside Geneva (staff travel and accommodation, to be borne by the host church or churches or council) were not too heavy.

The Moderator replied that at this stage all meetings were planned for Geneva, but they were open to invitations to hold the meeting elsewhere.

11. CLOSING ACTIONS

The Moderator, echoing words of thanks already expressed in the evaluation of the meeting, said that he was looking forward to the coming years of work together. He thanked the Bossey staff, the WCC staff, both those who had attended throughout and those who had attended particular sessions, the committee members themselves, and the Vice-Moderators and the General Secretary.

The General Secretary added his thanks, particularly to the Moderator for his leadership. The spirit established in this meeting boded well for a good Central Committee meeting.

He expressed his thanks to the staff for their work in connection with the meeting and to the committee members themselves. The committee had been the first governing body to examine the proposals for future programme work. They had affirmed the staff in their work, and the staff would be faithful to the Executive Committee's decisions on the future programme work. He, too, was

looking forward, together with the staff, to the next seven years of working with the committee.

The Moderator led the meeting in prayer and closed the meeting at 13.00hrs on 19 May 2006.

APPENDIX I

List of Participants

Officers:	Rev. Dr Walter Altmann	Moderator
	Metr. Prof. Gennadios of Sassima	Vice-Moderator
	Rev. Dr Margaretha Hendriks-Ririmasse	Vice-Moderator
	Rev. Dr Samuel Kobia	General Secretary

Members:
Ms Inger Aasa-Marklund
Bishop Ivan M. Abrahams
Bishop Dr Hilarion Alfeyev
Bishop Vicken Aykazian
Bishop Samuel R. Azariah
Ms Nerissa Celestine
Ms Hae Sun Jung
Bishop Dr Vasilios Karayiannis
Bishop Dr Rolf Koppe
Ms Carmen Lansdowne
Rev. Sanele Faasua Lavatai
Mr Graham G. McGeoch
Archbishop Dr Nifon of Targoviste
Ms Iyabo Oyekola
Rev. Dr Larry Pickens
Rev. Dr Tyrone Pitts
Ms Outi Vasko

Apologies:
Dr Agnes Abuom
Metr. Bishoy
Pastor Antonio P. Malungo

Substitutes:
Bishop Youannes
Fr Mikhail Gundiaev (part-time)

Consultants:
Dean Anders Gadegaard

	Fr Dr K.M. George
	Rev. Prof. James Haire
Staff:	Mr Georges Lemopoulos
	Dr William Temu
	Rev. Sabine Udodesku
	Other staff according to agenda items
Minute-Writer:	Rev. Tony Coates
Administration:	Mr Gerard Scarff
	Ms Ursula Zierl

APPENDIX II

Membership of Sub-Committees

Programme

Rev. Dr Walter Altmann (Moderator)
Ms Inger Aasa-Marklund
Bishop Dr Hilarion Alfeyev/Fr Mikhail Gundiaev
Ms Nerissa Celestine
Bishop Dr Rolf Koppe
Rev. Dr Tyrone Pitts
Ms Outi Vasko
Bishop Youannes
Fr Dr K.M. George (Consultant)

Finance

Rev. Dr Margaretha Hendriks-Ririmasse (Moderator)
Bishop Ivan M. Abrahams
Ms Hae Sun Jung
Bishop Dr Vasilios Karayiannis
Ms Carmen Lansdowne
Dean Anders Gadegaard (Consultant)

Staffing and Nominations

Metr. Prof. Gennadios of Sassima (Moderator)
Bishop Vicken Aykazian
Bishop Samuel R. Azariah
Rev. Sanele Faasua Lavatai
Mr Graham McGeoch
Archbishop Nifon of Targoviste
Ms Iyabo Oyekola
Rev. Dr Larry Pickens

Public Issues

Archbishop Dr Nifon of Targoviste (Moderator)
Rev. Dr Margaretha Hendriks-Ririmasse
Bishop Dr Vasilios Karayiannis
Bishop Dr Rolf Koppe
Ms Carmen Lansdowne
Ms Outi Vasko

APPENDIX III

Proposed Programme Structure as at 19 May 2006

1. WCC and the Ecumenical Movement in the 21st Century

- 1.1 Interpreting the Common Understanding and Vision Process
- 1.2 Global Platform for Theological Reflection and Analysis
- 1.3 Nurturing Relationships with Member Churches
- 1.4 Consulting Ecumenical Organizations

2. Unity, Mission and Spirituality

- 2.1 Called to be the One Church
- 2.2 Spirituality in the Ecumenical Movement
- 2.3 Perspectives on Mission and Unity in view of 2010
- 2.4 Churches Becoming More Just and Inclusive Communities

3. Public Witness

- 3.1 DOV : Churches Seeking Reconciliation and Peace
- 3.2 Advocating for Justice and Accountability in Global Governance
- 3.3 Human Rights to Enhance Human Dignity
- 3.4 Churches and the Middle East: Solidarity and Witness for Peace
- 3.5 Ecumenical Reflection and Action on Poverty, Wealth and Ecology

4. Justice and Diakonia

- 4.1 Mutual Accountability
- 4.2 Ecumenical Solidarity
- 4.3 Migration, Social Justice and Overcoming Racism
- 4.4 Faith, Science and Technology
- 4.5 Caring for Creation – Climate Change and Water
- 4.6 Health, Healing and HIV/AIDS
- 4.7 The Ecumenical HIV/AIDS Initiative in Africa

5. Ecumenical and Faith Formation

5.1 Enabling Ecumenical Formation

5.2 Contextual Ecumenical Theological Education

5.3 Ecumenical Formation at Bossey Ecumenical Institute

6. Inter-Religious Dialogue and Cooperation

6.1 Deepening Trust through Enhancing Dialogue

6.2 Accompanying Churches in Critical Situations